

of this battalion was pushed with vigor and, with the aid of the protection on its right and left, the Second Battalion very soon caught up with the advance of the First and Third Battalions, so that by 6:30 a. m. (6½ hours) the regiment was advancing practically along a straight front of nearly 3,000 meters, from right to left, Third Battalion, Second Battalion, First Battalion, three companies, 322d Infantry, each of the 321st Infantry Battalions with one machine gun company.

In addition to the forces just enumerated, the 316th (divisional) Machine Gun Battalion was at Blanzee, under command of the Commanding General 161st Brigade, to cover the right of the attacking line and protect the right flank of the regiment left exposed to enfilading fire by the wide gap between the 161st Brigade and the 162d Brigade on its right. As the attack progressed, the 316th Machine Gun Battalion moved forward, and when the fighting ended, two of its companies were abreast of the support companies of the Third Battalion.

The Boche, being advised of the impending attack by the artillery preparation, laid a heavy barrage along the lines occupied by the battalions the preceding night. In order to avoid the effect of this barrage, the Commanding Officer, Third Battalion, pushed his support companies close up on the rear of his assaulting companies